

Docket No.: PHRM0016-100 (00133US.1)

PATENT

REMARKS

Claims 1-116, all the pending claims, are subject to a restriction requirement.

The Examiner required Applicants to elect one of 472 patentably distinct inventions for examination. The Office Action alleges that each of the inventions is distinct because, *inter alia*, each "are drawn to products having materially different structures and functions." (Office Action at page 4). Applicants were further required to elect one sequence from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-78.

Applicants provisionally elect herein Group 150, encompassing claims 30-35, 74, 89-94, and 116, drawn to a polypeptide and a composition, classified in class 530, subclass 350". Applicants elect for examination SEQ ID NO:73.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that no serious burden would be imposed upon the Examiner by combining several of the groups. For example, Groups 156-194, directed to, *inter alia*, antibodies, could be searched with no serious burden along with Group 189, directed at antibodies against SEQ ID NO:73. The searching of these two groups would also not require the Examiner to do an additional search beyond what is done for Group 150, therefore, Examining Group 189 would not impose a serious burden upon the Examiner.

Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the claims encompassed by any of the non-elected groups in future divisional applications.

Change of Correspondence Address

As set forth on the attached "Change of Correspondence Address" form SB-122, Applicants respectfully request that all future correspondence related to this application be directed to:

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The examination of these claims and passage to allowance are respectfully requested. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore earnestly solicited. Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (215) 665-6928 to clarify any unresolved issues raised by this response.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 5, 2004
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